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INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 000897

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR NEA/ARP, EEB/IFD/ODF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [IBRD](#) [AE](#)

SUBJECT: NEW WORLD BANK PRESIDENT - UAE THOUGHTS

REF: SECSTATE 73691

¶1. (SBU) Econchief contacted MinFinance A/US for Revenue and Budget Khalid Al Bustani on May 30 to inform him that the President was expected to announce the nomination of Robert Zoellick as President of the World Bank and to stress Mr. Zoellick's strong qualifications for the position. Al-Bustani, currently in Senegal for meetings, said that he had heard news reports of Zoellick's probable appointment. He expressed his enthusiasm for Zoellick, noting that the UAE's experience with him as U.S. Trade Representative in the run-up to U.S.-UAE FTA negotiations had been positive. He promised to discuss the candidacy with MinState Finance Dr. Mohammed Khalfan bin Kharbash when he returned to the UAE.

¶2. (SBU) Econchief also discussed the issue with Ministry of Economy U/S Abdulla Al-Saleh, who also responded positively to the news.

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